

**I-866-OUR-VOTE
(1-866-687-8683)****Disclaimer:**

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**1) Where can voter registration forms be obtained?**

Online: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/nvrc/fedform/>

In person: at your local library, post office, or county elections office (see back page for locations).

By phone: 1-800-345-VOTE / English 1-800-232-VOTA / Español (Spanish)

1-800-339-2857 / 中文 (Chinese) 1-866-575-1558 / 한국어 (Korean)

1-800-339-2865 / 日本語 (Japanese) 1-800-339-2957 / Tagalog

1-800-339-8163 / Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

2) Are there restrictions on registering to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?

A photocopied or otherwise duplicated voter registration card may be used. There is no state restriction on copying completed applications, but an applicant's driver's license number and social security number must be kept confidential.

3) Are there restrictions on the use of the National Voter Registration Form?

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in California. Visit <http://www.eac.gov/voter/> and click "Register to Vote." Voter registration drives using the National Voter Registration Form are subject to the same requirements described in Questions #13–16. If using the National Voter Registration Form in California, the political party affiliation and race/ethnicity fields may be left blank.

4) Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?

Commercial use of voter registration information is prohibited by law and is a misdemeanor. Election officials will use voter registration information to send you official information on the voting process, such as the location of your polling place and the issues and candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Voter information may be provided to a candidate for office, a ballot measure committee, or other person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. **Driver's license numbers, social security numbers, and your signature are confidential and will not be released for these purposes.**

If you have any questions about the use of voter information or wish to report suspected misuse of such information, please call the Secretary of State's Voter Protection and Assistance Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE.

5) Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling information on registration forms?

Cards with pre-filled blanks may not be used unless specifically authorized by the Secretary of State.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

6) How long must you live in a county before you are eligible to register to vote?

A person must have been a resident of the county or city in which the person intends to register for a minimum of 15 days prior to a primary or general election.

7) Are there any restrictions on registering to vote using a P.O. Box, college campus, or dorm address?

A P.O. Box or business address may not be used as a residence address. A college campus or dorm address may be used if the resident does not intend to return to his or her home state after college.

8) If I am in the state because of work or school, can I register to vote?

If you do not intend to return to your home state after school or work, you may register to vote using your school or work address.

9) Are there any identification requirements to register to vote?

When registering to vote, you must provide your driver's license or state identification card number. If you do not have a current and valid driver's license, you must provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you have none of the above, the state will assign you a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes only.

10) Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?

Some people who registered by mail for the first time in California and did not fill in their identification number (see Question #9) may have to show identification when they vote at a polling place, or include a photocopy of their ID with their absentee ballot.

11) What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?

If the form is missing required information, an elections official will call you to collect it. If he or she cannot collect the missing information by telephone, he or she will inform you by mail of the reason for rejection and will send you a new voter registration card.

12) Can a person whose name has changed since registering vote on Election Day?

Yes. A person whose name has changed is encouraged, but not required, to re-register under the new name. A person who is already registered but whose name has changed after the registration period closes should contact the local country elections office.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

13) What are the laws regarding third-party registration?

California Elections Code Section 2158(b) states:

“The county elections official must . . . [p]rovide voter registration cards in sufficient quantities to any citizens or organizations who wish to distribute the cards other than to persons who have been convicted of violating this section within the last five years. Citizens and organizations shall be permitted to distribute voter registration cards anywhere within the county.

(1) If, after completing his or her voter registration affidavit, an elector entrusts it to another person, the latter shall sign and date the attached, numbered receipt indicating his or her address and telephone number, if any, and give the receipt to the elector. Failure to comply with this paragraph shall not cause the invalidation of the registration of a voter.

(2) Any citizen or organization that distributes voter registration cards shall give a voter registration card to any elector requesting it, provided that the citizen or organization has a sufficient number of cards.

(3) If distribution of voter registration cards pursuant to this subdivision is undertaken by mailing cards to persons who have not requested the cards, the person mailing the cards shall enclose a cover letter or other notice with each card instructing the recipients to disregard the cards if they are currently registered voters.

Additional laws and guidelines can be found on pages 18–23 of the Secretary of State’s *Guide to Voter Registration in California*, available at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/guidetovr_1006.pdf.

14) Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation?

Any person, company, or organization that is paying people to assist others in registering to vote must make sure that the people they have hired for this purpose properly complete Box 12 of the voter registration form. California Elections Code Section 2159.5 lists the legal responsibilities of individuals giving or receiving compensation for submitting voter registration forms.

15) Is training required for voter registration drives?

Training is not required, but helpful training information can be found on page 20 of the Secretary of State’s *Guide to Voter Registration in California*, available at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/guidetovr_1006.pdf.

16) Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?

No, they are not.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

17) What is the deadline to register to vote?

For the 2008 general election, the deadline is **Monday, October 20, 2008**. California requires voters to be registered 15 days before an election.

18) Must organizations or individuals engaged in voter registration drives submit their forms within a certain period of time?

Yes. Individuals and organizations must return completed voter registration cards to county election officials or deposit cards in the postal service within three days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) of receipt from the voter. Registration forms must be received by county officials or post marked before the 15th day prior to an election. For the 2008 general election, the deadline is **Monday, October 20, 2008.**

19) Is Election Day registration allowed?

No. If your registration status is in doubt on Election Day, you may cast a provisional ballot. However, provisional ballots are not reported until 35 days after the election and in many cases are not counted at all.

20) Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?

Any registered voter may vote early in California. Check with your local county elections official (see back page) for instructions.

Any registered voter may vote by mail in California. You must apply in writing to your county elections official before the 7th day before the election (October 28, 2008). For more information, visit http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm.

VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

21) Is there any pending legislation that effects voter registration?

One bill, AB 1819, would authorize a person who is at least 16 years of age and otherwise meets all voter eligibility requirements to submit his or her affidavit of registration.

Another, AB 2371, affects the procedures for automatic voter registration already in place when citizens apply for driver's licenses or file personal income tax returns.

All pending legislation can be found here: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/legismgt/elect/elections.cfm>.

22) What applicable statutes are possibly affected?

If you would like to read the statutes that generally apply to voter registration, they are under Division 2 of the California Elections Code.

- §§ 2100–24 on voter registration generally;
- §§ 2135–43 on registration procedures; and
- §§ 3000–24 on absentee voting.

23) Are there any helpful elections official contacts?

For more information, contact the Elections Division of the California Secretary of State's Office:

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)

Fax: (916) 653-3214

24) What web resources are available?

The California Secretary of State has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: www.ss.ca.gov/elections.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections is another resource:
<http://nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/california>.

COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICIALS CONTACT INFORMATION

County	Address	Phone	Online Contact
Alameda	1225 Fallon St., Rm. G-1, Oakland, CA 94612	(510) 272-6933	www.acgov.org/rov/index.htm
Alpine	P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120	(530) 694-2281	www.alpinecountyca.gov/departments/county_clerk
Amador	810 Court St., Jackson, CA 95642	(209) 223-6465	www.co.amador.ca.us/depts/elections/index.htm
Butte	25 County Center Dr., Oroville, CA 95965	(800) 894-7761	http://clerk-recorder.buttecounty.net
Calaveras	891 Mountain Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249	(209) 754-6376	www.co.calaveras.ca.us/departments/recorder.asp
Colusa	546 Jay St., Suite 200, Colusa, CA 95932	(530) 458-0500	www.colusacountyclerk.com
Contra Costa	P.O. Box 271, Martinez, CA 94553	(925) 335-7800	www.cocovote.us
Del Norte	981 H St., Rm. 160, Crescent City, CA 95531	(707) 465-0383	E-mail: elections@co.del-norte.ca.us
El Dorado	P.O. Box 678001, Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 621-7480	www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/elections
Fresno	2221 Kern St., Fresno, CA 93721	(559) 488-3246	www.co.fresno.ca.us/2850/index.html
Glenn	516 W. Sycamore St., Willows, CA 95988	(530) 934-6414	www.countyofglenn.net/Elections/home_page.asp
Humboldt	3033 H St., Rm. 20, Eureka, CA 95501	(707) 445-7481	www.co.humboldt.ca.us/election
Imperial	940 W. Main St., Suite 202, El Centro, CA 92243	(760) 482-4226	www.imperialcounty.net/Election
Inyo	P.O. Box F, Independence, CA 93526	(760) 878-0224	www.countyofinyo.org/Recorder/RecorderElectionsWebsite.htm
Kern	1115 Truxtun Ave., 1st Fl., Bakersfield, CA 93301	(800) 452-8683	http://elections.co.kern.ca.us/elections/
Kings	1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230	(559) 582-3211	www.countyofkings.com/acr/elections/index.html
Lake	255 N. Forbes St., Lakeport, CA 95453	(707) 263-2372	www.co.lake.ca.us/Government/DepartmentDirectory/Registrar_of_Voters.htm
Lassen	220 S. Lassen St., Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130	(530) 251-8217	http://clerk.lassencounty.org/registrar.htm
Los Angeles	P.O. Box 1024, Norwalk, CA 90651	(800) 815-2666	www.lavote.net
Madera	200 W. 4th St., Madera, CA 93637	(559) 675-7720	www.madera-county.com/countyclerk/index.html
Marin	P.O. Box E, San Rafael, CA 94913	(415) 499-6456	http://co.marin.ca.us/depts/RV/main/index.cfm
Mariposa	P.O. Box 247, Mariposa, CA 95338	(209) 966-2007	www.mariposacounty.org
Mendocino	501 Low Gap Rd., Rm. 1020, Ukiah, CA 95482	(707) 463-4371	www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/elections.htm
Merced	2222 M St., Rm. 14, Merced, CA 95340	(209) 385-7541	www.co.merced.ca.us/elections/
Modoc	204 S. Court St., Alturas, CA 96101	(530) 233-6200	E-mail: judi_stevens@modocounty.us
Mono	P.O. Box 237, Bridgeport, CA 93517	(760) 932-5537	www.monocounty.ca.gov/departments/elections/elections.html
Monterey	P.O. Box 4400, Salinas, CA 93912	(831) 796-1499	http://MontereyCountyElections.us
Napa	900 Coombs St., Rm. 256, Napa, CA 94559	(707) 253-4321	www.co.napa.ca.us/Gov/Departments/DeptDefault.asp?DID=13600
Nevada	950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City, CA 95959	(530) 265-1298	http://new.mynevadacounty.com/elections/
Orange	P.O. Box 11298, Santa Ana, CA 92711	(714) 567-7600	www.ocvote.com
Placer	P.O. Box 5278, Auburn, CA 95604	(530) 886-5650	www.placer.ca.gov/elections
Plumas	520 Main St., Rm. 102, Quincy, CA 95971	(530) 283-6256	www.countyofplumas.com/clerkrecorder/elections/
Riverside	2724 Gateway Dr., Riverside, CA 92507	(951) 486-7200	www.voteinfo.net
Sacramento	7000 65th St., Sacramento, CA 95823	(916) 875-6451	www.saccounty.net/elections
San Benito	440 Fifth St., Rm. 206, Hollister, CA 95023	(831) 636-4029	www.sbcvote.us/
San Bernardino	777 East Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92415	(909) 387-8300	www.sbcounty.gov/rov/general_info/default.asp
San Diego	P.O. Box 85656, San Diego, CA 92186	(800) 696-0136	www.sdcounty.ca.gov/voters/Eng/Eindex.html
San Francisco	1 Carlton B Goodlett Pl., Rm. 48, SF, CA 94102	(415) 554-4375	www.sfgov.org/site/elections_index.asp
San Joaquin	P.O. Box 810, Stockton, CA 95201	(209) 468-2885	www.sjcrov.org
San Luis Obispo	1055 Monterey St., Rm. D-120, SLO, CA 93408	(805) 781-5228	www.slocounty.ca.gov/clerk.htm
San Mateo	40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402	(650) 312-5222	www.shapethefuture.org
Santa Barbara	P.O. Box 159, Santa Barbara, CA 93102	(805) 568-2200	www.sbcvot.com
Santa Clara	P.O. Box 1147, San Jose, CA 95108	(408) 299-8683	www.sccvote.org
Santa Cruz	701 Ocean St., Rm. 210, Santa Cruz, CA 95060	(831) 454-2060	www.votescount.com
Shasta	P.O. Box 990880, Redding, CA 96099	(530) 225-5730	www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us
Sierra	P.O. Drawer D, Downieville, CA 95936	(530) 289-3295	www.sierracounty.ws
Siskiyou	510 N. Main St., Yreka, CA 96097	(530) 842-8084	www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/clerk/index.htm
Solano	675 Texas St., Ste 2600, Fairfield, CA 94533	(707) 784-6675	www.solanocounty.com
Sonoma	P.O. Box 11485, Santa Rosa, CA 95406	(707) 565-6800	www.sonoma-county.org/regvoter/index.htm
Stanislaus	1021 I St., Suite 101, Modesto, CA 95354	(209) 525-5200	http://slanvote.com
Sutter	1435 Veterans Mem'l Cir., Yuba City, CA 95993	(530) 822-7122	www.co.sutter.ca.us
Tehama	P.O. Box 250, Red Bluff, CA 96080	(530) 527-8190	www.co.tehama.ca.us
Trinity	P.O. Box 1215, Weaverville, CA 96093	(530) 623-1220	www.trinitycounty.org/Departments/assessor-clerk-elect/elections.htm
Tulare	5951 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277	(559) 733-6275	www.tularecoelections.org
Tuolumne	2 S. Green St., Sonora, CA 95370	(209) 533-5570	http://portal.co.tuolumne.ca.us/
Ventura	800 S. Victoria Ave., L-1200, Ventura, CA 93009	(805) 654-2781	http://recorder.countyofventura.org/elections.htm
Yolo	P.O. Box 1820, Woodland, CA 95776	(530) 666-8133	www.yoloelections.org
Yuba	915 8th St., Suite 107, Marysville, CA 95901	(530) 749-7855	http://elections.co.yuba.ca.us/